



PLANE CRASH PILOT OWNS HIGH-END WATCH COMPANY

BOY, 11, AND PILOT 'ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY' AFTER ACCIDENT

The pilot who crashed a vintage plane into a National Trust property in Northamptonshire yesterday is the owner of a high-end watch firm, whose watches are worn by Tom Cruise, Orlando Bloom and Hugh Laurie.

Giles English, who owns Bremont Watch Company, an award-winning British luxury watch manufacturer, was flying the 1930 Gipsy Moth lightaircraft on Monday when it suffered engine failure and crashed in a field at Canons Ashby House.

Mr English lives in Moreton Pinkney, just over one mile away from the crash site, and is a co-owner of the 83-yearold light-aircraft.

The 11-year-old boy, who was a passenger in the vintage aircraft, has also been named as Oliver Nuttall.

A spokesman for Bremont praised Mr English for "an in-

credible job" after he crash landed the plane in a field. The spokesman said both casualties were "on the road to recovery".

Mr English's father died in a fatal air crash in March 1995. Mr English's brother, Nick, and father, Dr Euan English, were training for an air show in their World War Two Harvard and while practising formation aerobatics they got stuck in an "inverted spin" and crashed.

Nick, who co-owns the Bremont firm with his brother Giles, broke more than 30 bones in the accident.

The firm makes aviationthemed chronometers.

A statement from the watch company said: "We are sorry to say that yesterday morning Giles English and his young passenger, Oliver Nuttall, were involved in a vintage aircraft accident near to their home airfield in Northamptonshire, following an



Giles English, left, pictured with his brother Nick. The pair own the luxury watch manufacturer, Bremont Watch Company

engine failure. They were only a mile away from landing and reports are that Giles did an incredible job at putting the aircraft down in some very difficult terrain. Both pilot and passenger sustained serious injuries but thankfully both are on the road to recovery."

The Air Accidents Investigation Branch (AAIB) confirmed a formal investigation will be carried out "via correspondence".

It means investigators were not sent to the crash scene and the probe will now be carried out through a series of inter-



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BRAIN POWER 11-year-old Cerys Cooksammy-Parnell takes on her father, Dean, at chess. Both are members of Mensa, but Cerys has a higher score

Dad's pride as daughter beats him in Mensa test

By Callum Jones

callum.jones@northantsnews.co.uk

An 11-year-old from Northampton has laid claim to be the most intelligent person of her age in the country after she achieved the maximum score in a Mensa test.

Cerys Cooksammy-Parnell, of Dallington, has officially registered an IQ of 162 which is higher than Bill Gates, Albert Einstein and Stephen Hawk-

The Wellingborough School pupil also scored a higher result than her father, Dean, who is already a member Mensa and has been registered with an IQ of 142.

Cerys, who sat the Mensasupervised exam in Milton Keynes on July 27, said: "My primary aim was to beat my dad who is very smart but I didn't expect to beat him by such a huge margin.

"At 11 I do not have that many intellectual discussions

with my friends and to be honest there is more to a person than just their IQ.

"Perhaps when I am really old and past 20 years of age I will have more intellectual conversations where my IQ will assist me but until then my focus will be on fashion, fun and getting good grades in school.

Cerys has now been invited to join the High IQ organisation and the youngster says she would like to work in fi-

She said: "I like working with numbers so I think I would like to work for a bank or even one day become the Governor of the Bank of Eng-

Mr Parnell said his daughter was a normal 11-year-old who was not "geeky" and obsessed with reading books all the time.

He said: "It is clear she is a straight A student but I would not allow her to do the Mensa test until she was at least 11

"I am not sure if this Mensa

score is a good thing or a bad thing as I know she will be questioning everything I now tell her to do," he added.

Cerys said her favourite subject was maths and said she was part of a 'gifted and talented' group who stayed behind after school and completed complex maths puz-

Cerys said she had also displayed signs of her outstanding intelligence when she was very young after she managed to learn the names of dozens ofcapital cities before she went to school.

The youngster also learnt to read very quickly so, when her nursery teacher read to the class, she also used to let Cerys read aloud to the other children.

Cerys is believed to be in the 0.004 per cent of people who have ever scored 162 on the Mensa test.

Only people in top two per cent can join Mensa

Mensa is the largest and oldest high IQ society in the world. It is a non-profit organisation open to people who score at the 98th percentile or higher on a standardised, supervised IQ or other approved intelligence test. The organisation is also involved with programs for gifted children, literacy and scholarships, and it

also holds numerous gatherings. Mensa was founded in England in 1946 by Roland Berrill, a barrister, and Lance Ware, a scientist and lawyer, who wanted to form a society for people with a high IQ. It has over 110,000 members, including Carol Vorderman, whose IQ is 154, and Sir Clive Sinclair, inventor of the pocket calculator.

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Number of petrol thefts stands at two a day

AN average of almost two petrol thieves a day drive away from forecourts in Northamptonshire without paying for their fuel, police have revealed.

New figures show the number of so-called 'bilking'

offences across the county have fallen over the last three years. Between April 2012 and March 2013, 753 drive-offs were reported, compared to 988 during the same period in

The latest figure represents

a fall of 26 per cent.

Police say they are working closely with petrol stations affected by fuel thieves and are trying to gather evidence and catch offenders.

Sergeant Paul Valentine said: "Police and forecourt managers share information and use CCTV and automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) technology to identify

the people committing these crimes - we know who the repeat offenders are and will target them."

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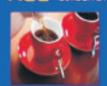
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Celebrities tee up £32,000 for appeal

By CALLUM JONES

callum.jones@northantsnews.co.uk

Sports stars including former **England cricketer Darren** Gough England and rugby player Ben Foden helped raise more than £32,000 for a charity set up in memory of a fiveyear-old who died of a rare form of cancer.

The celebrities took part in a golf tournament at Whittlebury Hall Golf Club on Saturday and then attended a gala ball at the country club.

The event was organised by Chris Curry to raise money for Niamh's Next Step, a charity set up in memory of his daughter who died, aged five, of neuroblastoma.

In early 2012, Niamh's family managed to raise the £450,000 needed to pay for Niamh's treatment at The Children's Hospital in Philadelphia. But Niamh sadly died

before she had the chance to get treatment in the US.

Mr Curry said: "It was amazing, an incredible event. Everyone had a fantastic time and there has been lots of great feedback on social me-

Mr Gough said: "I really enjoyed myself. I got involved through boxer Pete McDonagh as Chris Curry was at one of his fights in Manchester. I always try to help as much as I can. I try my best to support the charity as much as I can."

Mr Foden said: "I was introduced to Chris by Lee Dickson. The news about Niamh really hit home with me and Una as it was shortly after we had our own daughter.

"It's great to know that Niamh had a massive impact and has left this legacy. The charity means a lot to me and Una and we will do anything we can

Charity set up to carry on legacy of Niamh

Niamh Curry sadly passed away in May 2012, shortly before she was due to be flown over to the USA to get specialist treatment. Niamh's Next Step has become a fully registered charity which aims to continue raising awareness of

neuroblastoma and funds to help other families and children diagnosed with this form of cancer.

• Patrons of the charity include Saints players Lee Dickson, Ben Foden, boxer Pete McDonagh and Shane Filan, from Westlife.

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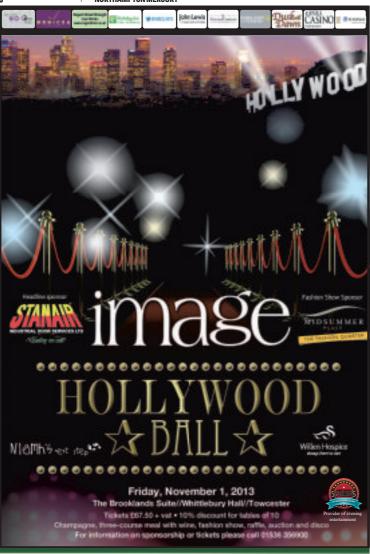
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CELEBRITY DRIVER Northampton Saints star Ben Foden, left, with fellow golfers at Whittlebury



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Hip-hip hurray for old surgery techniques

nick.spoors@jpress.co.uk

A surgeon in Northampton is offering quick-recovery hip operations based on a forgotten technique from the 1940s.

Simon West, a surgeon at BMI Three Shires Hospital, offers hip replacement patients the chance to have a MicroHip operation, where the front, rather than the back, of the body is opened up. It means no muscles or tendons are cut, making recovery far speedier.

Mr West said: "When hip replacements first started, in the 1940s, surgeons used the 'anterior approach' - they went into the hip through the front. Over time this technique was replaced by going in from the side or the back. However the MicroHip technique reverts to a front entry, because technology means we can now use a much smaller

Mr West is pioneering the

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QUICK RECOVERY Dennis Wilkinson, left, with his surgeon, Simon West, at Three Shires Hospital

operation in Northampton after travelling to Switzerland to study the man who invented the technique, Dr Markus Michel. Dr Michel was looking for a type of surgery that minimised permanent destruction of tissues, pain, rehabilitation time and loss of fine motor control. Mr West has so

far performed two MicroHip operations, including that of Dennis Wilkinson, aged 62, from Yardley Hastings, who said: "I had my other hip done and the recovery was good but this time it is amazing. Obviously there is a bit of tenderness and bruising but on the whole my hip feels fantastic."



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Locals say hall is 'one of the best in county'

By CALLUM JONES

Chronicle Reporter callum.jones@northantsnews.co.uk

People in Milton Malsor, near Northampton, are celebrating the completion of a £5,000 project to improve the village hall.

The village hall management committee have used £4,000 of Lottery funding to transform wasteland next to the village hall into an outside seating area.

A further £1,000 of village hall funds was used to add more seating and plants in the new garden area.

The village hall's website has also been updated so people can now book and pay to use the hall online.

An official opening ceremony was held on Sunday which was attended by a number of people who have supported the project.

Andrew Lewis, chairman of the village hall management committee, said he believed the village now had one of the largest and best equipped halls in the Northampton area.

He said: "Milton Malsor Village Hall is both literally and metaphorically at the heart of our village.

"Milton Malsor Village Hall does not rely on one penny of public money – we seek to entirely fund our maintenance and development through the hire of the hall and ongoing fund-raising through a dedicated band of volunteers.

"This new addition of a garden to our facilities, along with many other developments including the new website, is leaving us well prepared to continue to serve the community in which we



TEAM'S WORK Some of the many people who have helped transform the area near the village hall at Milton Malsor celebrate its official opening



BLANK CANVAS The site of the village hall at Milton Malsor, before work

'The village hall is literally and metaphorically at village heart' live well into the future. The rationale for all our improvements is simple – we have relatively fixed overheads, so if we can increase bookings we can keep prices down which is good for our hirers and it means we can continue to subsidise the use of the hall by local groups and clubs"

"We now have one of the largest and best equipped village halls in the area, available at one of the lowest rates."

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MP calls for HS2 station

BY IAN GALLAGHER

Chronicle Reporter ian.gallagher@northantsnews.co.uk

MP and rail activist Brian Binley has called for a new station to be built in Northamptonshire if the new high speed rail link goes ahead.

Mr Binley says a new station in Brackley would help ease the congestion on the West Coast Main Line, which currently serves Northampton rail users.

The Northampton South MP, and chairman of Northampton Rail Users Group, was speaking following last week's announcement about a series of closures in the Watford area next year.

The Chron reported last week that a 12-mile section of the West Coast Main Line around Watford Junction station will be closed for 36 days between May 2014 and April 2015, as part of a £81 million Network Rail project to improve punctuality.

Mr Binley, who is a staunch supporter of the HS2 project, said: "If you are more than 100 years old, the chances are you will need a bit of help to prop you up and this is exactly the case with the West Coast Main Line.

"We should not be surprised. This is another reason why HS2 is so vital to the nation. There is a real problem with the West Coast Main Line – it is already up to capacity."

Mr Binley says the 56,000 new homes planned for Northampton by 2035 will bring 120,000 people to the town, and the need to find 84,000 jobs.

He estimates 10,000 to 12,000 of these will still commute to London every day, and will need increased capacity.

The HS2 line would cut through south Northamptonshire, between Brackley and Upper Boddington, and has several opponents – including South Northamptonshire MP Andrea Leadsom.

Mr Binley said: "Everyone talking about it only taking



20 minutes of the journey to Birmingham is missing the point. It is really about capacity.

ity.
"The way to do this is not longer platforms or more carriages, it is a new connection to London.

"I will be calling for a station at Brackley. The speed is not that important. Not every train would stop at Brackley."

Network Rail also touched on the subject of line speed when it announced the closures on the West Coast Main Line last week.

It says it intends to increase the speed of the lines through Watford to 125mph, from the current 80mph, but a London Midland spokesman said it was a "long way away" from being able to carry this out.



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Hawaiian bar plan in Drapery

By WAYNE BONTOFT

Chief Reporter wayne.bontoft@northantsnews.co.uk

A former Northampton restaurant which has stood empty for several years could soon re-open as a Hawaiian theme-bar.

The former La Tasca restaurant in The Drapery is currently vacant. But plans have been submitted to Northampton Borough Council to convert the building into a Kukui Bar – named after the state tree of Hawaii.

Documents submitted to the council reveal the venue would have a 'tropical feel' with bamboo features, thatched booths, a dance floor and a 'feature fish tank'.

The papers said: "Kukui is a quality operation, not based on volume sales, which seeks to offer escapism with a tropical twist.

"Music is a secondary feature, however it remains an important part in the Kukui cocktail."

The development of the bar would create about 12 new jobs. The venue would open



SAY ALOHA A long vacant site in The Drapery may be converted into an Hawaiian bar

until 3am, seven days a week. The council's planning department is due to make

a final decision on whether or not the plans should be allowed later this month. Before the venue operated as La Tasca, it was known as Bar Me, which hit the headlines in

2003 when councillors heard that drinking games had been played at the venue which resulted in drinkers stripping off and running along The Drapery.



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- A visit to Chester on Sunday
- Return coach travel from Corby, Higham Ferrers, Kettering, Northampton, Rushden & Wellingborough

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Departing Saturday 2 November 2013

On 3 July 1938, A4 class locomotive Mallard raced down Stoke Bank at 126mph to set a new steam locomotive world speed record. That record still stands. Mallard and its four surviving sister A4 locomotives will mark the 75th anniversary of Mallard's record-breaking run by gathering together around the Great Hall turntable at York. That's the three operational A4s - Sir Nigel Gresley, and Bittern - plus Dwight D Eisenhower, Dominion of Canada and Mallard.

- Overnight stay at a 3 or 4 star Yorkshire area hotel with dinner & full English breakfast
- A visit to the National Railway Museum, York to see the five surviving A4 locomotives including Mallard at The Autumn Great Gathering on Sunday
- A visit to Haworth on Saturday
- Free time in Yorl
- Return coach travel from Corby, Higham Ferrers, Kettering, Northampton, Rushden & Wellingborough

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The Autumn Great Gathering at the



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Fast and furious fun is on its way to town

vayne.bontoft@northantsnews.co.uk

A miniature sport made popular by the 'Fast and Furious' films could soon attract competitors to Northampton from all over the world.

Remote Control Drifting sees motorsports enthusiasts drive tiny versions of high powered sports cars around circuits, aiming to 'drift' their vehicles around the track by performing controlled skids.

Currently, the sport has no base in the UK.

But a team of top-class $drivers from \, the \, world \, of \, full$ size drifting are now planning to open an indoor circuit for $remote\,control\,drivers\,on\,the$ Round Spinney Industrial Es-

Documents submitted to Northampton Borough Council show the development would play host to people from across the world who spendup to £5,000 on their re-



Drifting action A scene from the film The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift. Remote control car racers are planning to open a 'drifting' track at a

mote-controlled cars.

The papers said: "This type of facility does not currently exist in the UK. Currently drivers make use of poorly maintained, very old circuits which are built for speed, not drifting."
The circuit would be built

in a former print works by Soul RC Ltd, a mail order radio controlled car company which is currently based in Moulton Park.

The council will decide in the coming weeks whether the development should be allowed to go ahead.

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GLORIOUS SIGHT The DH Fox Moth 'air taxi' will be one of the aircraft taking part in a vintage airshow

By CALLUM JONES

Chronicle Reporter callum.jones@northantsnews.co.uk

Vintage biplanes from Sywell Aerodrome are set to travel to an air show in Woburn celebrating 100 years of the aircraft designed by Sir Geoffrey

A specially created grass airstrip in the Deer Park at

Woburn will be visited by hundreds of members of the de Havilland Moth Club on August 17 and 18.

Aircraft are coming from across Europe and, in addition to Tiger Moths, the Biggles Biplane BE-2c replica, one of Geoffrey de Havilland's oldest designs, will also fly from Sywell to display at the event.

Another noteworthy design, the DH Fox Moth 'air taxi', is owned by Finedon farmer

Stuart Beattly, who will be appearing at the event.

The event will include a special 'get up close hour' each day, when all enthusiasts can take pictures and meet pilots. The gathering will also offer a display of vinatage and classic cars

Tickets cost £10 per person on Saturday and £15 on Sunday.

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- Overnight stay at a 3 or 4 star Yorkshire area hotel with dinner & full English breakfast
- A visit to the National Railway Museum, York to see the five surviving A4 locomotives including Mallard at The Autumn Great Gathering on Sunday
- A visit to Haworth on Saturday
 Free time in York
- Return coach travel from Corby, Higham Ferrers, Kettering, Northampton, Rushden & Wellingborough

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Motors

northamptonchron.co.uk/motors

Thursday, August 15, 2013

Northampton

Iconic design still looks fresh

ROAD TEST AUDI R8

BY ANDY ENRIGHT

The R8 has become such an iconic car for Audi that it would have taken a hugely controversial corporate decision to radically change this improved version.

So they haven't. Only hindsight will demonstrate whether this was the right thing to do or not.

Most six-year old designs look very tired indeed, but the R8's shape still challenges the

Nobody was ready for the first Audi R8. Nobody.

Remember, this was the first car to beat the Porsche 911 fair and square in what seemed like an eternity.

It still looks fresh and interesting and still provides a suitable halo model for the rest of the Audi range.

The updates to this revised



Shape still challenges the eye

version haven't changed the intrinsic nature of the R8.

The same customers who were attracted to it before will still love this latest model.

The V10 plus adds muscle and the Stronic transmission injects subtlety.

It's may not be the bravest update we've ever seen but when the "before" picture looked that good, who's complaining?

The Audi R8 is still just as

FACT FILE

AUDI R8 PRICE: £87,965-£114,430 MAX SPEED: 186/197mph CO2 EMISSIONS: 310 g/km **FUEL CONSUMPTION:** (combined) 19/21.7 mpg **LENGTH:** 4,431/4,434 mm WIDTH: 1,904/1,929 mm **HEIGHT:** 1,244/1,252 mm

INSURANCE: 49/50

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SPORT

O'Donovan happy to go it alone

Cobblers striker Roy has no problem with solo role

FOOTBALL

Cobblers striker Roy O'Donovan insists he does not have a preference over playing in a front two or as a solo striker and says it depends entirely on the game.

O'Donovan was up front alone in the opening-day defeat to York City but played alongside JJ Hooper against Milton Keynes Dons and Leicester loanee Jacob Blyth in the win over Newport County on Saturday.

Town manager Aidy Boothroyd has spoken about playing mainly a 4-5-1 formation away from home this season, and that tactic could be used at Southend United this weekend.

Boothroyd is likely to welcome back winger Chris Hackett for the trip to Roots Hall, and has plenty of options with Blyth having scored on his debut and Clive Platt nearing fitness.

O'Donovan is almost certain to start, having scored two in two, and is equally happy playing with a partner or ploughing a lone furrow.

"It depends on the game re-

ally," he said. "In the York game I didn't mind playing up front on my own-I felt like I was going to score and that the chances were going to drop to me.

"I've had a couple of different partners recently, they've tended to be younger than me and it's been good to pass on the little bit of experience I have."

Despite making a good goalscoring start to the campaign, O'Donovan is wary about setting any targets for the season.

Instead, he is content to focus on life at a club for whom he 'loves' playing and who he hopes to help drive to the next level.

"In the past few seasons I've come back in great shape and it's got to Christmas and I haven't played a lot of games," he said. "So this year it's great to be playing.

"I'm playing and the world is my lobster at the moment. I love playing for the club, it's a great set-up and everything is positive.

"There was obviously some negativity after the play-off final but we did well to get there and it's about taking it a step further this season."



Roy O'Donovan celebrates his goal against Newport County at Sixfields last Saturday



Jim Mallinder says Tom Wood would be a 'brilliant choice' as England skipper

Mallinder's backing Wood

SAINTS boss Jim Mallinder says Tom Wood would be a 'brilliant choice' to take up the role of England captain on a full-time basis.

Wood skippered the Red Rose on their tour of South America during the summer, steering the team to a 2-0 Test series victory against Argentina.

Ahead of last month's announcement of England's Elite Player Squad, there was speculation the Saints flanker would also be named skipper for this year's autumn internationals.

And with clarification set to come in October, Mallinder believes Wood would be a good choice should Stuart Lancaster opt to relieve Harlequins forward Chris Robshaw of the role.

"Ithink he'd be a brilliant choice," said the Saints director of rugby.

"Everybody respects Tom, what he says and what he does, and if Stuart were to pick him as captain he'd do a really good job for them."

Wood was also in the

running for the Saints captaincy, with Mallinder forced to make a tough decision on Dylan Hartley following the hooker's sending off in the Premiership final

Hartley was eventually handed the skipper's role for the fifth season in succession last week, but that's certainly nothing to do with what Mallinder thinks of Wood.

"Tom's been brilliant," he said. "I guess he was disappointed not to go with the Lions, but that didn't affect him in his outlook of wanting to play for England and dowell.

"I know from speaking to Stuart Lancaster, he was very, very impressed with the job that Tom did.

"So interms of us as a club that's brilliant, that we've got leaders like that. We've got Phil Dowson, Lee Dickson's a real good leader on the field, Kahn Fotuali'i is a leader.

"They're the types of players we need in the team. We need as many leaders as we possibly can."